GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1012
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2015
NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITY
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Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a programme for providing nutritious food for the tribal community particularly to women and children in the tribal areas and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has also conducted study regarding the health condition of tribal population and if so, the details of such survey; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide sufficient funds for distribution of nutritious food to the tribal community in order to address the issue of chronic undernutrition among them?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA)

(a): Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by the State Governments/UT Administration. This Scheme was launched in the year 1975. The scheme aims at holistic development of children below 6 years of age and pregnant women & lactating mothers, by providing a package of six services comprising (i) Supplementary nutrition (ii) Pre-school non-formal education (iii) Nutrition and health Education (iv) Immunization (v) Health check-up and (vi) Referral services through Anganwadi Centres at grassroots level. Three of the six services viz., immunization, health check-up and referral services, are related to health and are provided by Ministry. Under ICDS, Supplementary Nutrition is one of the services provided to the children below 6 years of age and pregnant women and lactating mother at anganwadi centres. The scheme is universal and open to all including tribal community across the country. The provision of supplementary nutrition under ICDS Scheme prescribed for various categories of beneficiaries is as follows:

(i) Children in the age group of 6 months to 3 years:Food supplement of 500 calories of energy and 12-15 gms of Protein per child per day as Take Home Ration (THR) in the form of Micronutrient Fortified Food and/or energy-dense food marked as CDS Food supplement.

(ii) Children in the age group of 3-6 years: Food supplement of 500 calories of energy and 12-15 gms of Protein per child per day. Since a child of this age group is not capable of consuming of meal of 500 calories in one sitting, the guidelines prescribed provision of morning snack in the form of milk/banana/seasonal fruits/micronutrient Fortified Food etc. and a Hot Cooked Meal.

(iii) Severely underweight children: Food supplement of 800 calories of energy and 20-25 gms of Protein per child per day in the form of Micronutrient fortified and/or energy dense food as Take Home Ration.

(iv) Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers: Food supplement of 600 calories of energy and 18-20 gms of Protein per day in the form of Micronutrient Fortified Food and/ or energy dense food as Take Home Ration.

(b):The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare conducts periodic surveys to ascertain levels of health indicators. The latest national survey was the National Family Health Survey-3, conducted in 2005-06. Recently, District level household Survey- 4 has been conducted in 2012-13 for 26 States and UTs and reports are in process of publication. The Surveys are conducted for the whole population, but have disaggregated estimates for all Castes including Scheduled tribes.

The health indicators for tribal population, as per NFHS 3 (2005-06) are as under:

	Schedule Tribes	Total Population
Infant Mortality Rate	62.1	57
Under-five mortality Rate	95.7	74.3
Percentage of pregnant women provided at least 1ANC check up	70.5	77.1
Percentage of pregnant women conducted institutional deliveries	17.7	38.7
Percentage of children received full immunization	31.3	43.5
Total Fertility Rate	3.12	2.7

(c): In order to address various programmatic, management and institutional gaps and to meet administrative and operational challenges, Government has approved Strengthening and Restructuring of ICDS Scheme in September 2012 with an over-all budget allocation of Rs. 1,23,580 crore during 12thFive Year Plan.In addition, Ministry of Tribal Affairs is supporting growing and consumption of traditional minor millets, kitchen garden, consumption of greens and other traditional foods, backyard poultry, fisheries, etc.